

HOMESPUN

A Typographic Novelty

by

ANDREW W. DUNKER

PRIVATELY PRINTED

ANDREW W. DUNKER was a journeyman tool and die maker, who lived in Jackson, Michigan. He was born June 18, 1902 and died at the age of 97 on March 15, 1999. Early in the 1940s he spent some time running a Thompson in a print shop, as well as doing a little hobby printing on the side. About 1945 he acquired a Thompson of his own and three years later he began experimenting with electrodepositing matrices. His first usable matrix was produced one and one-half years later. He developed a tightly fitted depositing case and a receiving block that insured each character in every matrix would maintain the exact alignment of the original. The deposited matrices were then finished to precise depths of drive, alignment and side-bearing.

In spite of these extraordinarily precise replicas of existing types, he deeply regretted his inability to produce original designs. He once suggested assembling "guide blocks" to be cut at various angles, which, when assembled in different combinations, could then be used as an intaglio pattern to guide the stylus of a pantographic engraving machine. After much discussion, this idea was dropped and he then began thinking along the lines of creating a similar "assemblage" in the actual type size.

The results of this experiment are shown in the sample. Tiny .003* square steel rods were cut in lengths of .918" and .750" and built up into alphabetic shapes. The result is similar to a "sampler" which young maidens of earlier times created with needle and thread to demonstrate their domestic dexterity. In addition to a complete alphabet, with numerals, punctuation and several ligatures (AY, LY, etc.) there are multiple versions of several letters (three each of A, M, U and W). The matrices for this face were bequeathed by the sister of Mr. Dunker, Mrs. Charles P. Dozier of Jackson, Michigan in early 1999. * Decimal should be .030"

HOMESPUN
HOMESPUN
HHOOEEUU
AY



THE PRIVATE PRESS AND TYPEFOUNDRY OF PAUL HAYDEN DUENSING

APA 421